

“Harassed but hopeful”

Matthew 5:10-12

Principle: Bad things happen to good people. Wrong treatment comes to those who do _____.

Principle: People become _____ around goodness.

Principle: The more positive you are, the more negative people are going to _____ you.

How do you handle harassment when you are persecuted for your faith?

1. Don't _____ where persecution comes from

“We are not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces.” Ephesians 6:12

2. Don't _____ back

“If someone does evil to you, don't pay him back with evil...Never take revenge, let God's wrath do it.” Romans 12:17, 19

3. Don't overcome evil with _____

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

4. Don't be _____ when you are persecuted

“If you are insulted because of Christ, you are blessed....for God's spirit rests on you.” 1 Peter 4:14

“The apostles were full of joy that God considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for Jesus' name.” Acts 5:41

“These troubles won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's riches blessing upon us forever and ever.” 2 Corinthians 4:17

5. Don't forget your _____

“Whatever you give up for the Lord's sake here in the earth, He will restore a hundred fold in eternity.” Matthew 19:29

6. Don't _____

“So those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful creator and continue to do good.” 1 Peter 4:19

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, no any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that's in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35-39